

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

EB-07 /076 W

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R 151730Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7949

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CO, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH ROYALTY VISITS COLOMBIA

1. THE FIVE DAY VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN TO CARTAGENA AND BOGOTA OCTOBER 11-15 OVERSHADOWED MOST OTHER EVENTS OF THE WEEK. VERY LITTLE OF A CONCRETE NATURE RESULTED FROM WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE.

2. GREETING THE ROYAL COUPLE IN CARTAGENA, LOPEZ EXPRESSED COLOMBIA'S SUPPORT FOR THE RETURN OF GIBRALTAR TO SPAIN AND SUGGESTED THAT, IN RETURN, SPAIN MIGHT "ACCOMPANY LATIN AMERICANS IN THEIR DESIRE TO RECOVER THE MALVINA (FALKLAND) ISLANDS, BELIZE, AND, ABOVE ALL, THE PANAMA CANAL "WHICH GRADUALLY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO OUR SISTER NATION." DURING A TOAST LATER IN THE WEEK, LOPEZ EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE THAT COLOMBIA BE THE CONDUIT FOR EXPANDED CONTACT BETWEEN SPAIN AND LA, AND HE PROPOSED THAT SPAIN BE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS IN INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH ONES). DURING THE FINAL BANQUET, JUAN CARLOS EMPHASIZED THE FAMILY CONCEPT OF SPANISH-SPEAKING NATIONS AND URGED THAT, IN A WORLD OF FRAGILE AND OFTEN ARTIFICIAL ALLIANCES, SPAIN AND COLOMBIA SHOULD DEFEND AND PRESERVE THEIR

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NATURAL SOLIDARITY. NEAR THE END OF THE VISIT THE KING AND THE

PRESIDENT AGREED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO EXPAND TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

3. THE VISIT, WHICH APPARENTLY WENT WELL FROM THE BOGOTA VANTAGE POINT, GAVE JUAN CARLOS AND SPAIN FAVORABLE EXPOSURE. THE CHOICE OF DEMOCRATIC COLOMBIA FOR HIS FIRST STATE VISIT TO LA WAS SIGNIFICANT AS A REFLECTION OF JUAN CARLOS' COMPARATIVELY LIBERAL POLITICAL POSTURE, AND IN TURN COLOMBIA'S STATURE IN LA COMMUNITY WAS ENHANCED BY THE CHOICE. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE OF THE VISIT WAS THE DISPLEASURE OF THE SPANISH PRESS CORPS OVER PRESS ARRANGEMENTS AND SECURITY RESTRICTIONS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MADRID'S COMMENTS ON SPANISH VIEWS AND REACTIONS TO THE ROYAL VISIT TO COLOMBIA.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BOGOTA10570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760389-0170
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761049/aaaabqji.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH ROYALTY VISITS COLOMBIA
TAGS: PFOR, CO, SP, (JUAN CARLOS I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006